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The biggest and as yet uncomprehended geopolitical story of the decade is that five radical countries — Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, and Syria — are now operating an open political-military alliance to achieve as quickly as possible:

- Isolation and expulsion of the United States from key regions of the world, namely Western Europe, the Pacific Rim, the Middle East, and Africa;

- Extinction of the era of capitalism and, by extension, democracy.

Comprising what can be called the Radical Entente, this core coalition of five countries has the quiet backing — thus far at least, as their arsenal — of the Soviet Union. Beyond that, there is presently no visible Soviet "smoking gun," other than the power of Soviet political support and its worldwide propaganda machine.

Although their ideologies — Islamic fundamentalism vs. Marxism-Leninism — seemingly ought to clash, the Radical Entente shares a common world view:

- Without U.S. support, the democratic world would crumble; therefore the United States is the No. 1 target.

- Global strategy: stretch thin American political and military resources by instigating — if possible, simultaneously — provocative and premonitory paramilitary actions in widely separated world areas.

What is astonishing about this effort to stifle projection of U.S. power is not merely that it is working. Rather it is that leaders in Congress and West European governing circles act as if they are unaware of the existence of the Radical Entente. They seem to regard events such as overthrow of the shah of Iran or the Somoza dictatorship, the campaign against the unpopular Marcos regime in the Philippines, the March 1983 Libyan bombardment of Omdurman in the Sudan, and terrorist actions against U.S. Marines in Lebanon and American soldiers in Greece or Germany as discrete happenings, rather than as events planned toward achieving an openly avowed geopolitical goal.

Unmasking the Radical Entente

We're their No. 1 target

What can be stated with some certainty is that the Radical Entente as an existing fact of international life very much concerns President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, and CIA Director William J. Casey. Mr. Shultz's recent speeches on how to deal with terrorism and President Reagan's hard line on the Sandinistas are an indication of their awareness of the Radical Entente's peril to the Free World. However, they also know that pre-emptive deployment of American military power at times and places of the president's own choosing may now be out of the question in the face of a pacifist-isolationist Congress and the fear of the U.S. military that too many overseas commitments would exceed our present capabilities and projected resources.

These reasons exist as to why the United States is Target No. 1 of these five anti-status quo powers:

- As leader of the Free World, the United States has ideological preeminence because, as a successful consumerist post-industrial democracy, it affords a competitive ideological example to that part of the world burdened by totalitarian dictatorships.

- American military-industrial power when successfully deployed, as in Grenada, directly threatens Radical Entente ambitions.

- Only the United States stands in the way of the Radical Entente's aspirations to overthrow the democratic order.

- The Arab component of the Radical Entente, namely, Syria and Libya, hate the United States because of its support of Israel and moderate Arab states, such as Egypt and Jordan.

The Radical Entente emerged after 1978 as the result of the Camp David peace process, which, through U.S. mediation, brought Egypt and Israel into successful face-to-face negotiations.

Additional causes for the Radical Entente's formation involved the fall of the shah of Iran, the Sandinista seizure of power in Nicaragua and, above all, the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, which they correctly foresaw would lead to a drastic alteration of U.S. foreign policy.

Evidence, which borders on the irrefutable, for existence of the Radical Entente has been adduced by Dr. Avigdor Haselkorn, senior analyst at Analytical Assessments, a division of the Eaton Corp. of Cleveland.

For Mr. Haselkorn, terrorism is but one of several Radical Entente weapons of aggression against the United States. For him the real question to be asked is: Where does "state-sponsored terrorism," as it is

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